



Danny McBride and Snooky entertaining Barbara Garbarini



Cecilia Fernandez was pleased with the examination given her by Felix Adler.

The New York Times

## Big Contingent From Circus Visits Bellevue To Delight a Record Audience of 5,000

For the forty-second consecutive year the Big Show went to Bellevue Hospital yesterday morning. It was seventy minutes of unbridled joy for a record-breaking assemblage of 5,000 patients, doctors, nurses and, of course, the usual quota of hookey players. All agreed that this year's visit was something long to remember.

The morning was perfect. The warm sunshine was sufficient blanket for the sick—young and old—who had filled the 3,000-seat grandstand in the rectangular plot facing the East River two hours before Merle Evans and his thirty-six-piece ensemble blared the opening cornet salvo. Another 2,000 crowding the balconies of the surrounding buildings cheered just as loudly.

The Big Show sent the largest

contingent in the history of its visits to the institution. In it were the clowns, Emmett Leo Kelly, of the sad face, and Felix Adler, "the King of Clowns," whose one purpose was "make 'em laugh." That they did until tears streamed down youthful faces. Alphonse the Juggler juggled as if his very career depended on it. Felix Adler and his pet pig ran riot over the grandstands.

Came breathless moments when Gordon Orton put into motion his trained liberty horses, and silence was of the pin-drop variety while the Four Macks did their whirlwind tricks on roller skates. When they finished the applause was thunderous. The elephants snorted and danced, and Yom Kam brought his trained dogs that rolled barrels and danced.

Nine-year-old Richard Tartaglia, both legs broken, could only say: "We and the guys have been waiting for days for this. Gee!" Three-year-old Cecelia Fernandez, a patient since she was born with club feet, could only stare with brown eyes and say: "O-o."

Nobody was forgotten. Word came in the midst of the performance that sixty youngsters quarantined with measles were an unhappy lot. Roland Butler, general director for the occasion, hastily dispatched Kelly, Adler, McBride and a contingent of clowns to a secluded area to do a special act. The sixty peeped hard through windows, laughed and applauded.

After the playing of "Auld Lang Syne," a tired but happy array was wheeled back to the wards.

"For weeks they will talk about the show; then will come a day and they will look forward to the next visit," said Dr. William Jacobs, medical superintendent of Bellevue. Nathan Mandel, lay superintendent, nodded his head in agreement.

Mr. Butler said:

"We enjoy it as much as you people do."

So did 12-year-old Gerald Gavan, his sister, Genevieve, 4, and brother Billy, 4. Gerald decided that his school could do without him for one morning and took Billy and Genevieve by hand. "Nothing to it," said Gerald. Gerald and family even shared in the distribution of several thousand boxes of popcorn by Jerry Vogel, music publisher.